

Ḥaḍrat Mawlānā Muhammad
Saleem Dhorat ḥafīzahullāh

Making the Most of your
Opportunities



3 important points
for anyone intending to visit the
Ḥaramayn or spend time in i'tikāf,
da'wah or with one's shaykh

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

The opportunity to do any good deed is a result of Allāh ﷻ's Grace and Favour; nobody has the power or ability to do a single good deed without the Faḍl of Allāh ﷻ. Being showered with special occasions and opportunities such as ḥajj, 'umrah, auspicious days and nights, i'tikāf, da'wah and spending time with one's shaykh are great bounties which must be valued.

During a recent visit to the Ḥaramayn, I was asked frequently by my friends, well-wishers and other Muslim brothers for some advice that would help them to make the most of the blessed journey and to avoid spending their time in a profitless way.

Through the sheer Mercy, Grace and Help of Allāh ﷻ, I was able to share three points with them that if adopted, would benefit them greatly. Moreover, if they are adopted by those granted the opportunity to be in blessed places, during i'tikāf, da'wah activities or in quest of spiritual reformation, they would greatly benefit them too.

1. Make sure you do not disobey Allāh ﷻ

Your goal should be to abstain from not only all major sins, but also every minor sin. Remember, the filth of sins, be they major or minor, erodes and destroys all the spirituality the heart acquires through blessed devotions in blessed places during blessed moments. Be attentive especially towards

the use of your eyes, ensuring complete abstinence from casting lustful glances. In order to preserve the spirituality and blessings acquired through devotions to Allāh ﷻ, you must refrain from every disobedience to Allāh ﷻ, no matter how hard it is to do so.

2. Do not waste a single second

These opportunities do not knock at everybody's door. Value this favour of Allāh ﷻ and make sure every second is spent in the correct manner, doing only those things that bring His Pleasure and enlighten the heart. If you have two choices then choose the one which will be most fruitful. Stay distant from all those things that lead to wasting time. Ensure time is not spent in futile and wasteful talk or just wandering around here and there. I advise you to prepare a timetable, according to your personal circumstances, and strictly adhere to it so that you are able to manage your time in the best manner. Remember, make full use of this opportunity as you may not have it again. (The leaflet *A Practical Way of Valuing Time* published by At-Tazkiyah will be helpful in this regard.)

3. Reflect and prepare

Take out some moments daily to reflect upon the past. Reflect upon your past life and plan for the future.

Ask yourself these questions:

- Why did Allāh ﷻ create me?

- What is my objective in life?
- How far have I come in securing this objective?
- How much of my life has already passed and how much more remains?
- What is the percentage of evil in my life and the percentage of good?
- How can I change and turn over a new leaf in my life?
- What do I need to do and what do I intend to do from now on to make amends for the past?

Meditate over these questions frequently and resolve to live your life according to the wishes of that Merciful Creator whose extreme love for you has given you this blessed opportunity, despite your being undeserving. Prostrate to Him; shed tears and repent sincerely. Ask Him to help you mend your ways and live a life of a *muttaqī* (God-fearing person), fulfilling the rights of the Creator and His Creation.

May Allāh ﷻ bless us all with the ability to value the opportunities to do good that He gives us, and may He safeguard us from being ungrateful for His Favours. *Āmīn.*

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